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## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
VICE GROUP HOLDING INC.	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE HOLDING INC.	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE MEDIA LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE PRODUCTIONS LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	

Debtor.

In re: CHANNEL 271 PRODUCTIONS LLC Debtor.	Chapter 11  Case No ()
In re: VICE PAYROLL LLC Debtor.	Chapter 11  Case No()
In re: VTV PRODUCTIONS, LLC Debtor.	Chapter 11  Case No ()
In re: VICE IMPACT INC. Debtor.	Chapter 11  Case No ()
In re:  CARROT CREATIVE LLC  Debtor.	Chapter 11  Case No()
In re:  CARROT OPERATIONS LLC  Debtor.	Chapter 11  Case No()
In re: VILLAIN LLC Debtor.	Chapter 11  Case No ()

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In re:	Chapter 11
JT LEROY HOLDING LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
BOY WHO CRIED AUTHOR LLC	_
	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VALVI LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VISUR LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	Case 140 ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
DANA MADE LLC	Case No()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
PROJECT CHANGE LLC	Case No()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE INTERNATIONAL HOLDING, INC.	Case No()
Debtor.	

## DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER DIRECTING JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF CHAPTER 11 CASES

Vice Group Holding Inc. ("<u>Vice Parent</u>") and its debtor affiliates, as debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "<u>Chapter 11 Cases</u>"), respectfully represent in support of this motion (the "<u>Motion</u>") as follows:

## **Relief Requested**

- 1. The Debtors request entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Proposed Order"), (i) directing joint administration of these Chapter 11 Cases for procedural purposes only and (ii) waiving the requirements of section 342(c)(1) of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101, et seq. (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rule 2002(n) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and Rule 9004-2 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Southern District of New York (the "Local Rules") that the case caption and certain notices in the Chapter 11 Cases contain certain identifying information with respect to each Debtor.
- 2. The Debtors request that the Court (defined below) maintain one file and one docket for all the jointly administered cases under the case number assigned to Vice Parent and that these cases be administered under the consolidated caption:

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
VICE GROUP HOLDING INC., et al.	Case No. 23-10738 ()
Debtors. <sup>1</sup>	Jointly Administered

3. In connection therewith, the Debtors further request that an entry be made on the docket of each of the Debtors' cases, other than Vice Parent's, substantially as follows:

An Order has been entered in this case, pursuant to Rule 1015(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, directing the procedural consolidation and joint administration of the chapter 11 cases of Vice Group Holding Inc. and its direct and indirect debtor subsidiaries. All further pleadings and other papers shall be filed in, and all further docket entries shall be made in, the docket of Vice Group Holding Inc., Case No. 23-10738 (\_\_\_), and such docket should be consulted for all matters affecting these chapter 11 cases.

### <u>Jurisdiction and Venue</u>

- 4. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, dated January 31, 2012 (Preska, C.J.) (the "Amended Standing Order").
- 5. Venue is proper before the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. The bases for relief are section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b), and Local Rule 9013-1.

The last four digits of Debtor Vice Group Holding Inc.'s tax identification number are 4250. Due to the large number of debtors in these chapter 11 cases, a complete list of the debtor entities and the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers is not provided herein. A complete list of such information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' claims and noticing agent at https://cases.stretto.com/vice. The location of the Debtors' service address for purposes of these chapter 11 cases is: 49 South 2nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

6. This Motion is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). The Debtors confirm their consent to the Court's entry of a final order in connection with this Motion to the extent that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

## **Background**

- 7. On the date hereof (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code with this Court. The Debtors are operating their businesses and managing their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No request for the appointment of a trustee or examiner has been made in these Chapter 11 Cases, and no official committees have been appointed or designated.
- 8. From their humble beginnings as a niche magazine, the Debtors and their non-Debtor affiliates (collectively, "VICE") have grown into a global media company that focuses on content centered around news and culture, serving a largely global youth audience. Today, VICE is a global, multiplatform media company that has a powerful brand, diversified financial profile, premium content, and rich engagement with its youth-targeted audience. With production hubs around the world, VICE creates thousands of pieces of content a week globally, including editorial, digital and social video, experiential events, commercials, music videos, scripted and unscripted television, feature documentaries, and movies. Additional facts relating to the Debtors' businesses and capital structure, and the commencement of these Chapter 11 Cases, are set forth in the Declaration of Frank A. Pometti in Support of the Debtors' Chapter 11

Petitions and First Day Relief (the "First Day Declaration"), which was filed contemporaneously with this Motion and is incorporated herein by reference.<sup>1</sup>

## **Basis for Relief**

- 9. Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) provides that if two or more petitions are pending in the same court by or against a debtor and its affiliates, the court may order joint administration of the estates of the debtor and such affiliates. All of the Debtors in the Chapter 11 Cases are "affiliates" as that term is defined in section 101(2) of the Bankruptcy Code and as used in Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) due to the fact that each of the 32 Debtors (other than Vice Parent) is a direct or indirect subsidiary of Vice Parent. Consequently, joint administration of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases is appropriate pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b).
- 10. Authority to grant the relief requested herein also falls within the Court's powers contained in section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. Pursuant to section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Court may issue "any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title." 11 U.S.C. § 105(a). Section 105(a) therefore authorizes a bankruptcy court to issue injunctions or take other necessary steps in aid of its jurisdiction. *See, e.g., MacArthur Co. v. Johns-Manville Corp.*, 837 F.2d 89, 93 (2d Cir. 1988). Such orders are appropriate where, as here, they are essential to the debtor's reorganization efforts and do not burden creditors. *See In re Momentum Mfg. Corp.*, 25 F.3d 1132, 1136 (2d Cir. 1994) (holding that, as courts of equity, bankruptcy courts are empowered to invoke equitable principles to achieve fairness and justice in the reorganization process).

Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the First Day Declaration.

- 11. The Debtors anticipate that numerous notices, applications, motions, other pleadings, hearings and orders in these Chapter 11 Cases will affect multiple (or all) of the Debtors. Joint administration of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases, therefore, will permit the Clerk of the Court to use a single general docket for each of the Debtors' cases and to combine notices to creditors and other parties in interest of the Debtors' respective estates.
- 12. Joint administration also will save time and money and avoid duplicative and potentially confusing filings by permitting counsel for all parties in interest to (i) use a single caption on the numerous documents that will be served and filed herein and (ii) file the papers in one case rather than in multiple cases. Finally, joint administration will protect parties in interest by ensuring that parties in each of the Debtors' respective Chapter 11 Cases will be apprised of the various matters before this Court in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 13. The rights of the respective creditors of each of the Debtors will not be affected adversely by joint administration of these Chapter 11 Cases inasmuch as the relief sought is purely procedural and is in no way intended to affect substantive rights. Each of the creditors and other parties in interest will retain whatever claims or rights it has against the particular estate in which it allegedly has a claim or right.
- 14. The waiver of the requirements under section 342(c)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 2002(n) that the case caption and other notices mailed in the Chapter 11 Cases include the Debtors' tax identification numbers and other identifying information about the Debtors likewise is appropriate in these Chapter 11 Cases.

  Bankruptcy Rule 2002(n) provides that notices under Bankruptcy Rule 2002 include, without limitation, the tax identification number of each Debtor and any other names used by the Debtors in the previous eight years. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002(n). Local Rule

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9004-2 provides that documents submitted for filing contain, without limitation, the applicable debtor's name, the initials of the Judge to whom the case has been assigned, and the docket number. Use of the proposed consolidated simplified caption without full registration numbers and previous names will ensure a uniformity of pleading identification. All pleadings filed and each notice mailed by the Debtors will include a footnote listing all of the Debtors and the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number (or non-U.S. tax identification number, as applicable). Moreover, the full tax identification numbers will be listed in the notice of commencement of these Chapter 11 Cases, and such notice is publicly available to all parties in interest, including on a website to be maintained by the Debtors' proposed claims and noticing agent,² and will be provided by the Debtors upon request. A waiver of the requirements under section 342(c)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 2002(n), and Local Rule 9004-2 is purely procedural in nature and will not affect the rights of parties in interest.

15. Joint administration is generally non-controversial relief, and courts in this jurisdiction routinely order joint administration in cases with multiple, related debtors. *See, e.g., In re Genesis Global Holdco, LLC,* Case No. 23-10063 (SHL) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 26, 2023) [Docket No. 37]; *In re Endo International plc,* Case No. 22-22549 (JLG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 17, 2022) [Docket No. 45]; *In re JCK Legacy Company,* Case No. 20-10418 (MEW) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 14, 2020) [Docket No. 59]; *In re Purdue Pharma L.P.,* Case No. 19-23649 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Sept. 18, 2019) [Docket No. 59]; *In re Barneys N.Y., Inc.,* No. 19-36300 (CGM) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Aug. 7, 2019) [Docket No. 41]; *In re Stearns Holdings, LLC,* No. 19-12226 (SCC) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. July 10, 2019) [Docket No. 74]; *In re* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Debtors have filed an application simultaneously herewith seeking to retain Stretto, Inc. as their claims and noticing agent.

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16. In light of the foregoing, the Debtors submit that joint administration of these Chapter 11 Cases and waiver of the requirements under section 342(c)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 2002(n), and Local Rule 9004-1 is in the best interest of the Debtors, their creditors and other parties in interest. Accordingly, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter the Proposed Order.

#### **Motion Practice**

17. This Motion includes citations to the applicable rules and statutory authorities upon which the relief requested herein is predicated and a discussion of their application to this Motion. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that this Motion satisfies Local Rule 9013-1(a).

### **Notice**

18. Notice of this Motion will be provided to: (i) the Office of the United States Trustee for Region 2, U.S. Federal Office Building, 201 Varick Street, Suite 1006, New York, NY 10014 (Attn: Andrea B. Schwartz); (ii) the parties identified on the Debtors' consolidated list of 30 largest unsecured creditors; (iii) Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166 (Attn: David M. Feldman, Michael S. Neumeister, and Tommy Scheffer), counsel to the DIP/First Lien Group; (iv) Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, 51 West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019 (Attn: Scott K. Charles and Neil M. Snyder), counsel to TPG Virat Holdings 1, L.P., and Sixth Street Virat Holdings 3, LLC; (v) Shipman & Goodwin LLP (Attn: Marie C. Pollio), counsel to Wilmington Trust, National Association; (vi) the Internal Revenue Service; (vii) the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; (viii) the offices of the attorneys general in the states in which the Debtors operate; and (ix) any

party that has requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002 (collectively, the "Notice Parties"). The Debtors respectfully submit that, in light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

## **No Previous Request**

19. No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made by the Debtors to this or any other court.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter the Proposed Order granting the relief requested herein and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: May 15, 2023

New York, New York

VICE GROUP HOLDING INC., et al. Debtors and Debtors in Possession By Their Proposed Counsel TOGUT, SEGAL & SEGAL LLP, By:

<u>|s| Kyle J. Ortiz</u>

ALBERT TOGUT KYLE J. ORTIZ BRIAN F. MOORE One Penn Plaza, Suite 3335 New York, New York 10119 Telephone: (212) 594-5000 altogut@teamtogut.com kortiz@teamtogut.com bmoore@teamtogut.com

## EXHIBIT A

**Proposed Order** 

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
VICE GROUP HOLDING INC.	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE HOLDING INC.	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE MEDIA LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE PRODUCTIONS LLC	Case No()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
PLDM FILMS LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
INVERNESS COLLECTIVE LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	

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In re:	Chapter 11
VICE PROJECT SERVICES LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE CONTENT DEVELOPMENT, LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE DISTRIBUTION LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE MUSIC PUBLISHING LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VIRTUE WORLDWIDE, LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
CHANNEL 271 PRODUCTIONS LLC	Case No()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE PAYROLL LLC	Case No()
Debtor.	

In re: VTV PRODUCTIONS, LLC	Chapter 11  Case No()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE IMPACT INC.	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
CARROT CREATIVE LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
CARROT OPERATIONS LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VILLAIN LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
JT LEROY HOLDING LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
BOY WHO CRIED AUTHOR LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	

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In re:	Chapter 11
R29 PRIDE, LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
CLIFFORD BENSKI, INC.	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE EUROPE HOLDING LIMITED	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE EUROPE PULSE HOLDING LIMITED	Case No ()
Debtor.	
In re:	Chapter 11
VICE FOOD LLC	Case No ()
Debtor.	

# ORDER DIRECTING JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF CHAPTER 11 CASES

Upon the motion (the "Motion")¹ of the Debtors for entry of an order (this "Order"), pursuant to sections 105(a) and 342(c) of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101, et seq. (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rules 1015(b) and 2002(n) of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in the Motion.

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the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), directing the joint administration of the Debtors' above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "Chapter 11 <u>Cases</u>"); and upon the First Day Declaration; and it appearing that this Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the Amended Standing Order; and it appearing that venue of these Chapter 11 Cases and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and it appearing that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A) and that this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and due and proper notice of the Motion having been provided to the Notice Parties, and such notice having been adequate and appropriate under the circumstances, and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court; and it appearing that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and this Court having determined that the relief sought in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor;

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is GRANTED as set forth herein.
- 2. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 105(a) and Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b), the above-captioned Chapter 11 Cases are consolidated for administrative purposes only and shall be jointly administered by this Court as Case No. [\_\_-\_\_] (\_\_\_).
- 3. The consolidated caption of the jointly administered cases shall read as follows:

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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
VICE GROUP HOLDING INC., et al.	Case No()
Debtors. <sup>1</sup>	Jointly Administered

4. A docket entry shall be made in each of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Cases, other than the docket maintained for the Chapter 11 Case of Vice Group Holding Inc., substantially as follows:

An Order has been entered in this case, pursuant to Rule 1015(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, directing the procedural consolidation and joint administration of the chapter 11 cases of Vice Group Holding Inc. and its direct and indirect debtor subsidiaries. All further pleadings and other papers shall be filed in, and all further docket entries shall be made in, the docket of Vice Group Holding Inc., Case No. [\_\_\_\_\_] (\_\_\_), and such docket should be consulted for all matters affecting these chapter 11 cases.

- 5. The requirements under section 342(c)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code,
  Bankruptcy Rule 2002(n), and Local Rule 9004-1 that the case caption and other notices
  mailed in the Chapter 11 Cases include the Debtors' tax identification numbers and
  other identifying information about the Debtors are hereby waived. The Debtors shall
  include in all pleadings filed and each notice mailed by the Debtors a footnote listing all
  of the Debtors.
- 6. One consolidated docket, one file, and one consolidated service list shall be maintained by Vice Group Holding Inc., or its claims agent, and kept by the Clerk of

The last four digits of Debtor Vice Group Holding Inc.'s tax identification number are 4250. Due to the large number of debtors in these chapter 11 cases, a complete list of the debtor entities and the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers is not provided herein. A complete list of such information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' claims and noticing agent at https://cases.stretto.com/vice. The location of the Debtors' service address for purposes of these chapter 11 cases is: 49 South 2nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11249.

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the Court with the assistance of the notice and claims agent retained by the Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases.

- 7. Nothing contained in the Motion or this Order shall be deemed or construed as directing or otherwise affecting a substantive consolidation of these Chapter 11 Cases, or creating any other implication regarding the separateness (or lack of separateness) of the Debtors' estates for any purpose.
- 8. This Order shall apply to any future filing of any affiliate of the Debtors; *provided, however,* that the Debtors shall file notice with the Court identifying the cases of such affiliates and stating that this Order shall apply to such cases.
- 9. The Debtors are authorized and empowered to take all actions necessary to implement the relief granted in this Order.
- 10. This Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the enforcement of this Order.

Dated:	
	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE